

**Title:** Store Types Not Authorized

**Purpose**

Various types of businesses have applied for WIC authorization. This policy describes specific businesses NOT authorized to participate in the Montana WIC Program.

**Authority**

Public Law 108-447, Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2005

**Policy**

It is the policy of the Montana WIC Program to only authorize stores that meet the needs of the WIC participant's competitive price criteria. This limits the types of stores to grocery and grocery with pharmacy.

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- I. There are store types that may meet the need of the WIC participants, but are not within the competitive pricing criteria set by the Montana WIC program.**
  - A. Three types include 'WIC Only' stores, 'Over 50 percent' stores, and stand-alone pharmacies.
    1. 'WIC Only' stores are stores that sell only WIC-approved foods to WIC participants. New WIC-only stores must be certified by FNS for WIC participation under federal regulations. Montana did not have any WIC-only stores at the time these regulations went into effect and will not authorize WIC-only stores.
    2. 'Over 50 percent' stores are stores that make more than 50-percent of their annual sales from WIC purchases. Under federal regulations, over 50% stores must be certified by FNS.
      - a. Based on the FFY 2011 TIP report data and follow-up documentation Montana has no over 50 percent retailers.
    3. Stand-alone pharmacies are pharmacies that strictly sell pharmaceuticals. Montana WIC works directly with formula manufacturers to obtain special formulas not readily available in the larger combination grocery-pharmacy retailers.
- II. Stores charging a membership fee are not eligible to become a WIC authorized retailer.**